

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-7 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer ~~developing~~ container for containing developer including toner and carrier; ~~carrier, and developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member;~~

a first carrying member, provided in said developer container, for carrying the developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member;

a second carrying member, provided in said developer container, ~~member~~ for rotating to carry ~~carrying~~ the developer in a rotation axial direction of said second carrying member; ~~in said developing container;~~

a developer supplying device, which supplies said developer container with supplemental developer including toner and carrier; and

a discharge opening, ~~[[port]]~~ provided in an area of said developer ~~developing container in which the developer is carried by said second carrying member, for~~ discharging out of said developer container through said discharge opening ~~therethrough~~ any excess developer resulting from a supply of the supplemental developer,

wherein a developer carrying capability in the rotation axial direction of said second carrying member is greater in an area near said discharge opening ~~[[port]]~~ than in an area downstream of said discharge opening ~~[[port]]~~ in a carrying direction of the developer.

2. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is set so that a level of the developer in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] may be lower than that in a contour portion of said second carrying member and that a level of the developer in the area downstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer may be higher than the [[a]] contour portion of said second carrying member.

3. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said second carrying member has a spiral wing portion provided on a rotary shaft, and an agitating rib provided on said rotary shaft, and said agitating rib is not provided in the area near said discharge opening, [[port,]] but is provided in the area downstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer.

4. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is greater in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] than in an area upstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer.

5. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is set so that a level of the developer in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] may be lower than that in a contour portion of said second carrying member and that a level of the developer

in the areas upstream and downstream of said discharge opening ~~[[port]]~~ in the carrying direction of the developer may be higher than that in the contour portion of said second carrying member.

6. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said second carrying member has on a rotary shaft a spiral wing portion for carrying the developer, and an agitating rib is provided on said rotary shaft except for the area near said discharge opening. ~~[[port.]]~~

7. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 4, wherein said developer developing container has a developing chamber in which said first carrying member is provided, ~~for developing the electrostatic image on said image bearing member~~, and an agitating chamber provided with said second carrying member and said discharge opening. ~~[[port,]]~~ a developer circulating route being constituted between said agitating chamber and said developing chamber.